

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 6, 13-19 and 20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 20 has been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

**Personal Interview**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their personal representative during the interview conducted on June 5, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' personal representative discussed various features of the present invention that distinguish over the references as applied. The distinguishing features are set forth in the amended claims, and are discussed below. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that such changes would be considered at this stage of the prosecution, and for agreeing to call the undersigned if any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

**Election / Restriction**

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 6 and 13-19 from consideration.

**Claim Rejections - 102**

- The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 2,828,231 to Henry (hereinafter Henry). Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11 and, therefore, this rejection is believed to be moot.
- The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,727,619 to Robbins (hereinafter Robbins). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Robbins fails to disclose every element as set forth in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a rolling bearing cleaning method comprising cleaning the rolling bearing by flowing the cleaning liquid through an inner portion of the rolling bearing without rotating the same; and cleaning the rolling bearing by flowing the cleaning liquid through an inner portion of the rolling bearing while rotating the same, via the fluid, after execution of the

non-rotation cleaning step. That is, the rolling bearing is rotated—after cleaning without rotating—via the fluid that is used to do the cleaning, as discussed during the personal interview.

By way of non-limiting example, as described in connection with Fig. 4, one embodiment for rotating the rolling bearing with the cleaning fluid comprises a conical shaped die (10 in Fig. 3) having grooves in the periphery thereof. See also, the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 20 and 21.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Robbins discloses that during a cleaning operation, in order to rotate the bearing, it may be turned by turning the wheel in which it is located. See Robbins at col. 3, lines 20-29, and col. 4, lines 13-17, as well as Figs. 1 and 2. Nowhere does Robbins teach or suggest that the bearing is rotated via the fluid used during the cleaning operation.

For at least any of the above reasons, Robbins fails to anticipate claim 1 (as now written).

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

- The Examiner rejected claim 12 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Robbins in view of Henry or in view of Applicants Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claim.

As noted above, Robbins is deficient. Henry and the APA fail to cure the above-noted deficiencies. Accordingly, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Robbins with either Henry or the APA as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to teach or suggest all the elements as set forth in claim 12.

### **New Claim**

Dependent claim 20 has been added to further define the invention. Claim 20 recites that the jetting with high pressure is performed by causing the fluid to flow through a channel that narrows in cross sectional area. Support for this subject matter can be found at least at page 5,

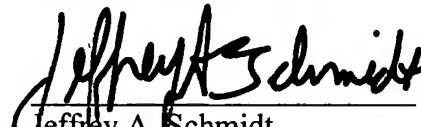
lines 7-21, and page 8, lines 17-24. Claim 20 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, should be allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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